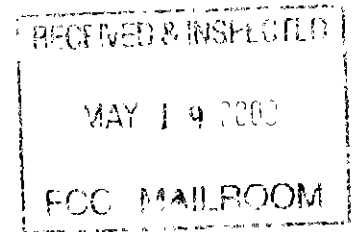


George R. Baker, Jr.
9612 Verdict Drive
Vienna, VA 22181

May 8, 2003



President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Recently, many Americans and I became aware that the Federal Communications Commission is considering the relaxation of broadcast ownership rules that currently protect all Americans from media monopolies. The Commission's action is tentatively set for June 2, 2003.

The relaxation of the current rules would allow the formation of giant media conglomerates to gain significant control over radio and television news and information in communities across the country.

While the consolidation of press/media outlets will undoubtedly be a financial windfall for the firms involved and generate increased revenue for the benefit of media executives and stockholders, the American public will be the ultimate loser. So too will the Constitution of the United States.

Freedom of the Press and **Freedom of Speech** are basic rights guaranteed to every American. The consolidation of media ownership will result in further silencing, beyond what we already witness, of opposing opinions in the soon-to-be-controlled press/media. Freedom of the Press does NOT grant the press/media freedom to control the flow of news and information for the fiscal benefit of the media's ownership. Nor does it grant the press/media the awesome power to effectively control its product to minimize or eliminate differing opinions.

There is no Op-Ed page in broadcast media. Viewers/listeners are not given the same reasonable opportunity as in the press to learn the other side of the stated opinion - which in most cases is taken as an incontrovertible fact.

History provides many examples and lessons that we have all witnessed when the press/media comes under control of a single power bloc. In Iraq, Saddam Hussein and his cronies very effectively controlled the press. So to did Hitler in Germany, Stalin in Russia, and so do today many regimes including North Korea, China, and Cuba. Totalitarian states continue their existence through tight control of all media. We are not a totalitarian state!

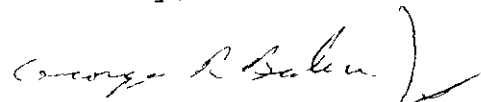
The relaxation of the broadcast ownership rules, now or at any time in the future, does not bode well for the very basic American freedoms.

I urge you to take action to stop the FCC from proceeding with any action that will pave the way for the further formation of giant media conglomerates.

More appropriately, action should be pursued under existing anti-trust legislation to break up already existing media monopolies and the prevention of any further media mergers.

Surely our freedoms are more important than the fiscal stockpiling of immense wealth for the benefit of the few to the detriment of the many. Freedom is not Free!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George R. Baker, Jr.", followed by a large, stylized flourish or checkmark.

George R. Baker, Jr.

cc:
FCC Commissioners - (5)
Senator John W. Warner
Senator George F. Allen
Representative Thomas M. Davis, III.